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March 20, 2025

The Honorable Kamela Smith
411 Legislative Ave
Dover, DE 19901

**RE: DHA Supporting Comments School Based Health Centers
(HB 149)**

Dear Representative Smith,

On behalf of Delaware's hospitals and health systems, thank you for the opportunity to express support for House Bill 149, which would allow for supervised clinical training rotations for mental health providers at school-based health centers.

School based health centers provide school-aged youth with comprehensive physical, behavioral, and preventative health services delivered by qualified medical and behavioral health providers in a school setting. Delaware's hospitals and health systems serve as the medical sponsor for a majority of the school-based health centers in Delaware.

Ensuring healthcare access and strengthening Delaware's healthcare workforce are two of DHA's top advocacy priorities for 2025. Allowing mental health providers to fulfill their clinical hour requirements within Delaware's school-based health centers directly supports both priorities. This approach not only expands access to critical mental health services for students but also helps develop a robust pipeline of qualified mental health professionals in the state.

Thank you for the opportunity to share DHA's support for HB 149 and for your leadership on this important issue. We look forward to working with you and your colleagues in the General Assembly to advance this legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Christina Bryan'.

Christina Bryan
Vice President of External Affairs